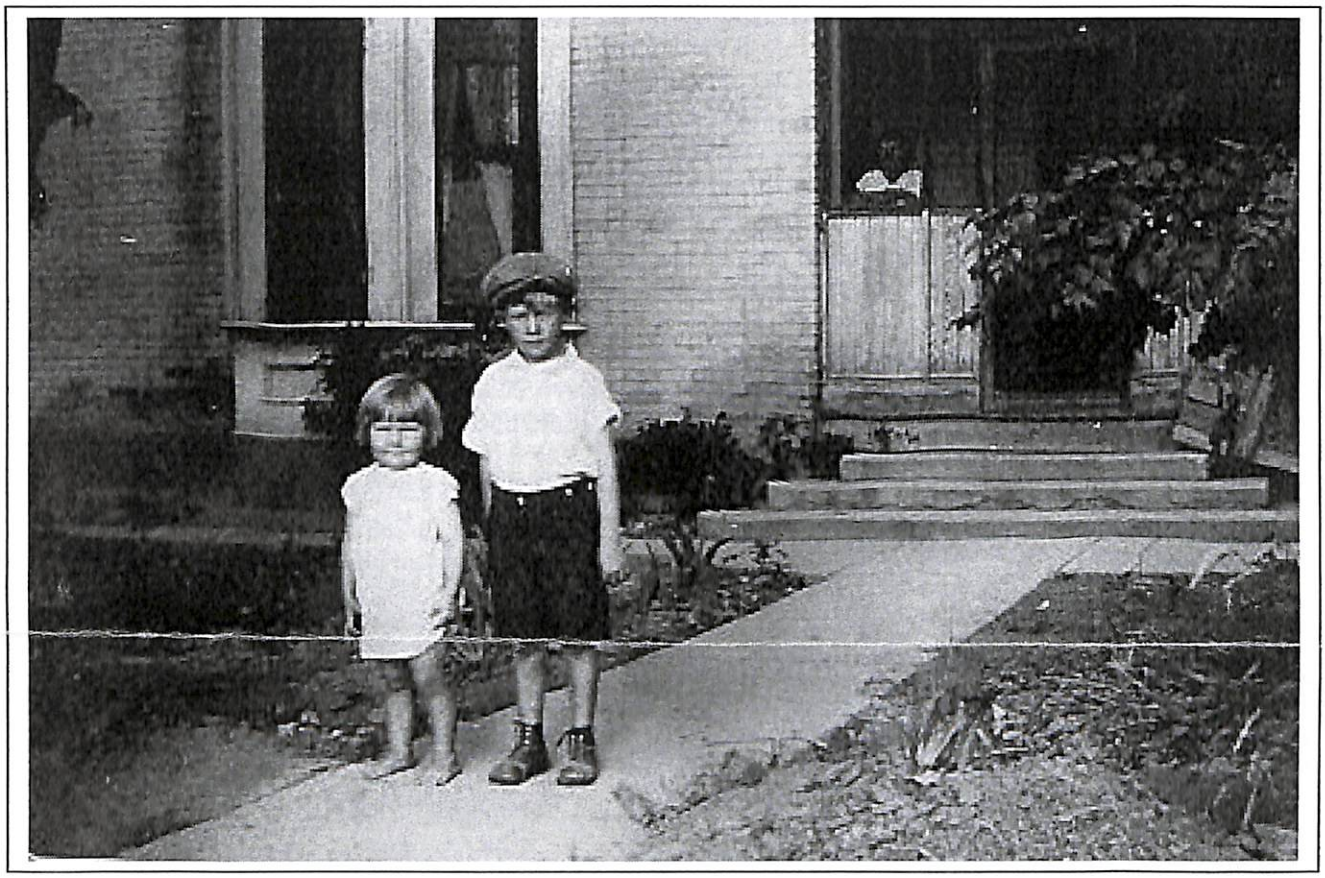
TAFT TALK

No. 52 *Newsletter of the Taft Family Association* Jun 2007



Franklin Leonard (6) and his sister Betty Jean (2) in 1931 probably at their home in Ford, KS. Betty Jean sadly died aged 3 on a Sunday after the family came home from church according to family lore. (Photo from Lori Stiles, daughter of Franklin Leonard Taft.

A Logical Connection for Isaac Taft

"ISAAC TAFT was born in Lewis county, New York, July 2, 1822. When he was five years of age he went to St. Lawrence county, where he lived until he was thirteen, and moved to Loraine county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood on a farm. He went to Michigan, remained a short time, and then went west to Illinois, remaining four years. He again returned to Michigan and engaged in farming for sixteen years, when he came to Iowa, and bought the farm where he now lives. Mr. Taft has had charge of the Wilson Grove Cemetery for the past twelve years. He was married in 1849 to Miss Mary Hopkins, a native of New York; they were married in Lucas county, Ohio. They have had three children, one died when an infant, Fannie, the wife of Ed. Wentworth of Sumner, and Frank who lives at home. He was married in 1875 to Miss Martha Parker, who died leaving twin babies and son, Guy H. seven years of age. They are the possessors of a bureau which was brought to the United States in the Mayflower, in the Baker family, and was at that time, a chest of drawers. They also have a piece of the boat cut from the Mayflower." (1883 History of Bremer County p 1183)

Beginning with this write-up sent in by Lori Stiles and recognizing that Isaac was still alive and thus the source for the information, we followed the trail backwards as Lori had done and reached the same conclusions.

See Issac p 5

Attics and Trunks can hold treasures and history

Thanks to cousin, Arthur Wheelock (Stanley Herbert, Arthur, Silas Mandeville & Irene (Taft), Luke Taft, James, Moses, Joseph, Robert), for sending our treasurer, Berneta, the news clipping from the "Telegram" by Dr. Merton R. Sharpe (1951) about the important papers found dealing with the early history of Uxbridge.

According to the article William A. L. Bazeley, the current owner, was looking for the deed to his home on South Main St. While unsuccessful at that endeavor, he came upon a leather-bound trunk under an old stairway, marked Bezaleel Taft. Bezaleel Taft, who built the house, was born in Uxbridge 3 Nov 1750 (VR 1.150) and died 21 Jun1839 there (VR 1.404), the son of Major Josiah and Lydia (Chapin) Taft. This Lydia Taft was the first female voter in Uxbridge (see TTT #42 p 11) and was the person for whom the Lydia Taft Nursing Home was named. At one time she owned over 400 acres of farmland. The house, an outstanding example of high-style Georgian architecture, is currently the Cocke'n Kettle Restaurant, a very popular restaurant in the area.

William A. L. Bazeley's wife was Margaret Thayer (Chapin), the daughter of Judge Henry and Louisa (Thayer) Chapin, and a descendant of Daniel Taft, the grandfather of Bezaleel. Thus the Taft family occupied the home for several generations,her grandchildren being the sixth generation at the time of the newspaper article.

Interestingly enough when Judge Alphonso Taft, the father of Pres. William Howard Taft, came to Uxbridge from Cincinnati, OH in August 1874 to deliver the main address at the Taft family gathering, he spoke at the home of County Commissioner Henry G. Taft on South Main Street, which was the house built by Bezaleel Taft Jr. on land given to him by his father. In an elm tree on that property a record of that reunion was hidden in a metal container. In August 1951, 77 years later, the metal cylinder was found in the big hollow of the trunk of the tree, when the tree was partially destroyed by severe winds.

Photo of Bezaleel Taft homestead now the Cocke'n'Kettle (Telegram 1951)

"When Mr. Bazeley went through the old papers in the trunk, he found many that related to Bezaleel Taft as well as other Tafts. Dozens of bundles of receipted bills, still tied with string by the owner of the trunk, covered the bottom.

"The oldest paper, which was undated, was an order to Bezaleel, from His Majesty King George III, to collect monies (probably taxes). It was printed on a sheet of paper in type of the old form, as were most of the others, in which the letter "s" is represented by an "f".

"One of the letters was signed by Gov. Levi Lincoln, appointing Bezaleel as an administrator of estates, a position probably similar to our present judge of probate. Another signed by Gov. John Hancock, requested Bezaleel, as chairman of the Board of Selectmen, to call a town meeting of Uxbridge in the Second State District.

"Among other offices that Bezaleel held was that of senator for Worcester County, as cited in one of the trunk papers. He was summoned to appear at the State House on May 1, 1790 at 9 am to be sworn in. This paper was signed by the Secretary of State. Also an order was found for the treasurer of Mendon 'to pay Bazaleel Taft, two

See Attics and Trunks cont p 3

Life Savers

Austin Taft, 11, and his twin sisters, Emily and Amanda, 9, received citations from the Woonsocket Fire Dept. recently for their life-saving response when their father had fallen and needed emergency help. They are the children of Gary R. and Susan Taft. Gary R. is the son of Austin Benner (Austin Benner, Clarence Augustus, Austin Augustus, Amariah, Jotham, Caleb, Daniel, Robert) Taft. Their father, Gary has recovered nicely.

Call Photos/ Scott A Weider

Attics and Trunks (continued from page 2)

pounds and eight shillings' on account of a trip to Worcester to act as a witness to the will of his mother, Lidia, the widow of Josiah Taft. Whether the payment was made on account of mileage on horseback or whether to reimburse him for his food and oats for the horse, it isn't known. An order for the sheriff, not named, but probably Bazaleel, was to collect for William Greenleaf one pound nine shillings and two pence. This was for the cost of a suit against Joseph McClintook and Benjamin Read of Mendon. The writ was to be turned in the first Tuesday in December 1791.

"The original appointment as justice of the peace came to Mr. Taft Jan. 19, 1802. It was signed by John Avery, Secretary of State. For many years following he held his court sessions in his own home.

"Digging deeper into the old trunk, Mr. Bazeley came upon a command to Joseph Taft, a cousin, who was a district deputy of the Masonic District of Massachusetts, directing him to proceed to Ware to constitute Eden Lodge. This was dated 1825 and was signed by Thomas Power, grand secretary." ("Telegram" article by Sharpe(1951))

As a side note, "when Uxbridge observed its 200th anniversary in June 1927, a part of the old town meeting in which Bezaleel's mother was granted the right to vote, was re-enacted as part of the program, during which Mrs. Bazeley portrayed the part of Lydia, attired in a period costume, and cast her ballot." ("Telegram" by Sharpe (1951))

Bezaleel Taft, Esq., in addition to the services listed above, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and served in the Mass. House of Representatives and the State Senate.

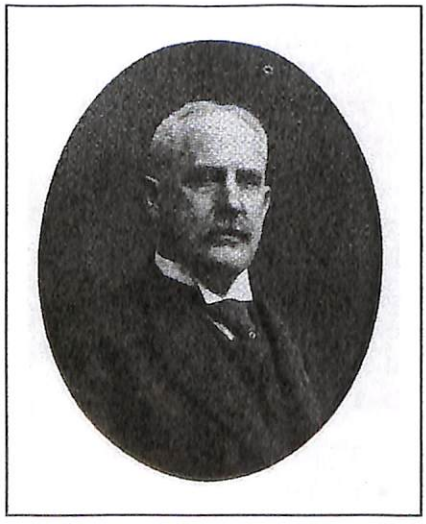
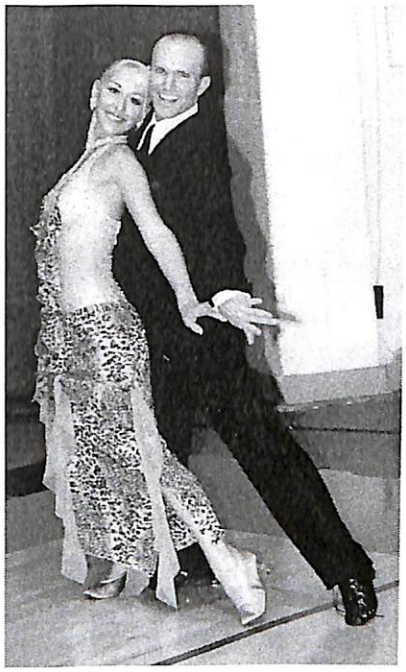


Photo from The Wheelock Family In America comp by Walter T. Wheelock.

Bezaleel Taft, Esq. (1750-1839) was the son of Major Josiah (Daniel, Robert, Robert) and Lydia (Chapin) Taft. He married first in Mendon 7 Dec 1722 (VR 1.395) Abigail Taft (1754-1775) daughter of Jacob and Esther (Marsh) Taft. Jacob Taft was the son of Israel (Robert, Robert) Taft. He married second in Uxbridge 2 Jan 1777 (VR 1.313) Sarah Richardson (1756-1809) daughter of Joseph and Susanna Richardson. By his first wife he had a daughter Eunice (1775) who married Dea. Phineas Chapin. By his second wife he had Abigail (1777-1778); Bezaleel Jr (1780-1846) married first Margaret Stoddard Spring, married second Hannah Spring; Sarah "Sally" (1783-1808) married John B. Brown; Caleb (1786-1805); and Chloe (1793-1869) married Joseph Thayer, Esq.. Chloe's daughter was Louisa Augusta Thayer who married Judge Henry Chapin mentioned above.

For more family connections with Bezaleel Taft see pages 8 and 9.

Taft Descendant and partner dance to the top



Christopher Taft Allen and his dance partner, Elona Bets, earned the title of National Champions in Amateur American Smooth at the US American Ballroom Dance Championship Competition in San Jose, CA last August. They are also nationally ranked in American Standard and have been dancing together for a few years. Elona hails from Belarus and Chris from Montague, MA.

Chris is a physics teacher at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY. He is descended from three of the Taft brothers, Joseph, Benjamin and Robert. His gr-gr-grandfather was Col. Henry Spurr Tafft, who has been featured in this newsletter recently. Incidentally his mother is your editor (excuse the indulgence).

Correction to TTT #51:

TTT 51 had an article on the descendants of Josiah Taft. Rochester was indicated as New York when it should have been Illinois. Thank you to Elizabeth Lahey, who is the ghost writer for Justin Taft's book The Tafts of Rochester, IL (due to be completed in Jan 2007). The editor regrets the error.

Robert Buntin, Jr of Sherborn, MA has this Oliver Taft blanket chest which he is interested in selling to a Taft descendant.

His great grandfather Edward Parker and family moved from Nashua, NH to Uxbridge where he served as town clerk and fire chief ("not bad for a man who was hit with a cannon ball in the Civil War"). His daughters were Jessie (Bob's grandmother), Agnes, and Carrie. Agnes and Jessie were both school teachers, Agnes in Uxbridge and Jessie in Sherborn where she met her husband, Charles A. Dowse. Agnes Parker acquired this blanket chest at some time during her many years in Uxbridge.

It is inscribed "Oliver Taft born Nov. 6, 1777, Father of Geo. W. Taft." Oliver (Joseph, Moses, Joseph, Robert) Taft and Chloe (Taft) were the parents of George Washington Taft (1823-1903), state legislator.

Cost of the chest is $1,200.00. Contact 1-508-653-9484.

We doubt anyone one won this one

Neil Todd found this item on Genforum at Genealogy.com (Jan 2007) under "General News of Iowa from the Davenport Daily Republican, Davenport, Scott, IA 1/4/1903:

Teacher Brings Suit:
"Fort Dodge, Jan 3. Miss Lucy Taft, a school teacher of Fort Dodge, filed a petition in a suit for $10,000 damages against R. A. Schroeder, one of the prominent merchants of this city. The suit is on two separate counts for $5,000 each. The plaintiff alleges that while she was in Schroeder's store, she was accused of larceny by the defendant, who said that she had stolen goods from the store. This the plaintiff denies, and asks $5,000 damages for injury to her good name and character. She also sues for $5,000 damages for alleged injury done her person by defendant. The suit has caused a sensation here on account of the prominence of both parties."

In our files and census records for Iowa, Lucy Stow Taft, the daughter of Calvin Taft (1824-1913) is the only Lucy that is a logical choice. She is found in the IA 1860, 1870 census records in her father's house in Marshall. He is buried in the Riverside Cemetery, Marshalltown, IA (Gravestone Rec. Marshall Co).

Lucy Stow Taft was born 15 Apr 1854 and died 4 Oct 1929 (One World Tree), unmarried, the daughter of Calvin (Auren/Oren, Lovett, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert) and Hannah L "Dolly" (Oviatt) Taft.

Isaac from p 1

Asahel Taft was born in 1792 at Dummerston, VT, died 1864 at Sheffield Lake, OH, buried Garfield Cemetery the son of Asahel (Joseph, Joseph, Robert) Taft. He "went west and had a large family" (TTT #24). He married first Amanda M. Fenton (179?) and second Irena (1808).

There are only two Tafts listed for Lewis County, NY in the 1820s and 30s. In the 1820 Census for Harrisburg Asahel is found (200010/10100) with two sons under 10 (John A and Asahel), himself; one daughter under 10 (unknown) and wife Amanda. In the 1830 Census for De Kalb, St. Lawrence, NY he is found (112001/111001) with 1 male under 5 (Horace), 1 male aged 5-10 (unknown), two sons aged 10-15 (John A and Asahel), himself; one daughter under 5 (unknown), one daughter aged 5-10 (unknown), one daughter aged 10-15, (unknown), and wife Amanda.

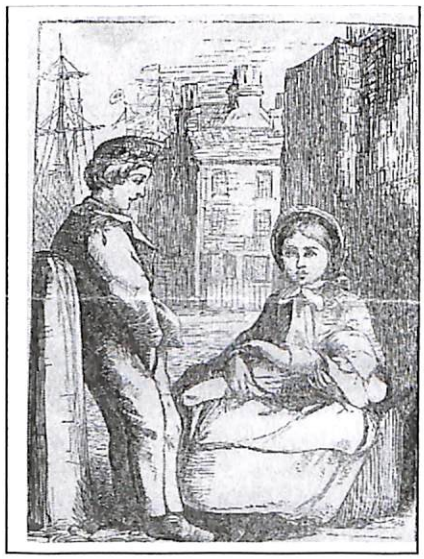
The 1820 Census for Martinsburg shows Robert (100010 / 10010) with one son under 10, himself; one daughter under 10 and wife. In the 1830 Census he is listed (001001 /100101) with one son aged 10-15, himself; one daughter under 5, one daughter 10-20, and wife. Robert was born in 1784 the son of Enos (Seth, Robert, Robert, Robert) Taft. Presently we have no further information on his family; however we do not find him in Lorain County, OH nor do his children's dates agree with those of the known children of Asahel.

In the 1840 Census for Elyria, Lorain, OH Asahel is found (3102001 /011001) with three sons under five (James (1836), George (1838), Joseph (1839)), 1 male aged 5-10 (Otis (1833)), two males aged 15-20 (unknown) and (Asahel (1820)), himself; one daughter aged 5-10 (Fanny (1831)), one daughter aged 10-15 (unknown), and Irena (1808). In the 1850 Census for Sheffield, Lorain, OH he is now found with named family: Asel (sic) (1792), Irena (1808), Horace (1827), Otis (1833), James (1836), George (1838), Joseph (1839), Silas (1843), Reuben (1845), Samuel (1846), Milo (1849), and Fanny (1831). Meanwhile we find in the 1850 Census for Sylvia, Lucas, OH Isaac (1822 NY) farmer with Mary (1829 NY), Horace (1827 NY) farmer and Fanny (1831 NY).

In the 1860 Census for Sheffield, Lorain, OH we find Asahel (1793), Irena (1808), Silas (1843), Ruben (1845), and Milo (1850). Isaac now surfaces in the Census for Whiteford, Monroe, MI as Isaac (1822 NY), Mary (1829 NY), Fanny (1850 OH), and Franklin (1851 OH). In the 1870, 1880, and 1885 censuses Isaac is found with Mary in Sumner, Bremer, IA.

Literary Tafts

Our intrepid Taft friend, Roy Henry, found a book given to Ellen B. Taft d. He told our treasurer, Berneta, it was in very good condition and thought it should belong to the Taft Association. This small book (4" x 6", 154 pp) was inscribed to "Miss Ellen B. Taft as a Christmas Present from her school Superintendent 1863". SUSY'S FLOWERS or "Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall obtain Mercy," Sabbath School Society, Cambridge, Allen & Farnham The author is unnamed but also wrote "Hope On," and "Martha's Home.' The book had several printings and publishers and finding the book "Hope On… or The House That Jack Built" we note the author is F. M. Sims. The recipient was probably Ellen Bowen Taft (1850 Uxbridge MAVR 44.200) died 1923 (Uxbridge MAVR 98.93) unmarried, the daughter of Charles Augustus Taft



(Timothy, David, Noah, Joseph, Thomas, Robert) Taft and his wife Sarah E. Bowen.

Mr. Henry has very kindly donated this book to the Taft Family Associatoon.

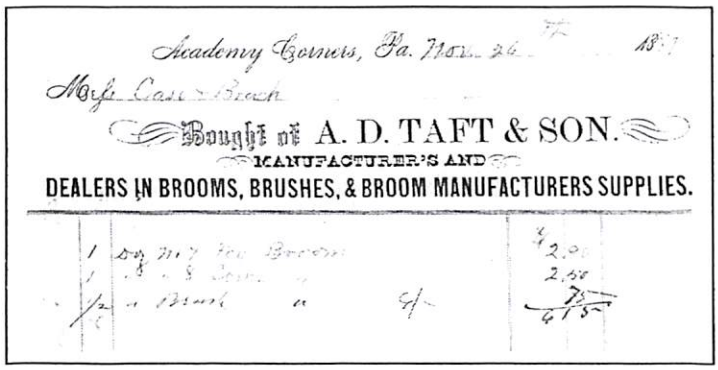
The 1850 census doesn't give relationships, however we believe Horace and Fanny are Isaac's siblings and Mary is his wife. She is Mary Hopkins born in New York state. In 1860 the only Tafts in Lorain Co. were Asahel, his sons George and John A. and their families.

Adding information from above we can now list Asahel's children as John A. (1815), daughter (181?), Asahel (1820), son (1820-25 probably Isaac), daughter (1820-25), daughter (1825-30), Horace (1827), Fanny (1831), Otis (1833), James (1836), George (1838), Joseph (1839), Silas (1843), Reuben (1845), Samuel (1846), and Milo (1849). We find Horace and Fanny living with Isaac (born 1822 NY) in the 1850 census with information coinciding with Horace and Fanny living with their father Asahel at the same time. No one else is remotely close in age and location to this family. While more information needs to be found to verify this interpretation, it seems highly likely that Isaac is that son of Asahel born in New York between 1820-1825.

Commerce is alive and well in the Taft family

Our member, Eugene A Seelye of Wellsboro, PA sent the following items concerning business in the 1800s. Although they represent several different families (one of which is probably not in our lineage), they all give a glimpse of commerce in the mid to late 1800s. These receipts and accounts are all from the Case Dry Goods Store or the Case & Beach Store in Knoxville, PA.

The first items (which we don't illustrate here) were receipts dated 20 Jul 1836 to the Troy Tow Boat line from Mr. V. Case and Misters E. B. & W. H Sackett of Talcott Brown & Co for freight per boat Orleans, signed by Mr. Asa C. Tefft. He was apparently from New York City and worked for the Troy Tow Line. In multiple censuses he is listed as Tefft not Taft.

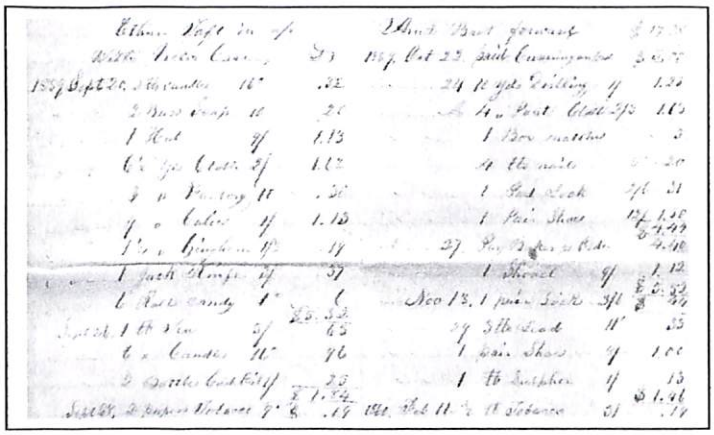

Academy Corners, Pa. Nov 26 18

Mess Case & Beach

Bought of A. D. TAFT & SON.

MANUFACTURER'S AND

DEALERS IN BROOMS, BRUSHES, & BROOM MANUFACTURERS SUPPLIES.



The next item dated 26 Nov 1887 at Academy Corners, PA Misters Case & Beach bought from A. D. Taft & Son, manufacturers and dealers in brooms, brushes, and broom manufacturers supplies: 1 dozen no. 7 fancy brooms for $2.90, 1 dozen no. 8 Com. Brooms $2.50, and ½ dozen (?) brooms $.75 for a total of $6.15. Asa Delos Taft established this broom factory in 1872 in Deerfield Township, Tioga Co, PA, manufacturing between 20,000 and 30,000 brooms a year. In 1889 he erected a fruit evaporating plant which handled a large quantity of fruit each year. (Information from Mr. Seelye and Mrs Ethel Croft). Asa Delos Taft was born 8 Jun 1834 at Triangle, NY the son of John Whitney (Asa Delos, Asa, Silas, Stephen, Benjamin, Robert) and Electa (Day) Taft. He died 21 Dec 1908 at Deerfield Twp, Tioga, PA and is buried in the Riverside Cemetery. He married 1 Sep 1854 at Deerfield Twp. Rhobe Seelye.

The last item is also from the Case Dry Goods Store in Knoxville and is a copy of the 1859-1863 account for Ethan Taft. This account with Victor Case is an itemized list of supplies including candles, soap, cloth, calico, gingham, knife, candy, castor oil, shovel, socks, sulphur, files, rakes, thread, tea, indigo, molasses, nails, hinges, bowls, matches, shoes, lock. The total is $32.40 with interest $5.10, amount due 21 Mar 1863 equaled $5.86.

Ethan Arthur Taft (1830-1899) was the son of Jesse (Mijamin, Nathan, Mijamin, Benjamin, Robert) and Sabra (Aldrich) Taft. He married 3 Jul 1752 in Westfield, PA Mary Seeley King.

Eugene A. Seelye is descended from Rose Ella Taft the daughter of Arch (Charles Laban, Laban, Jesse, Mijamin Mowrey, Nathan (Elnathan), Mijamin, Benjamin, Robert) and Sarah Jane (Lattimer) Taft.

What a wonderful trove of documents those are. It would be interesting to add to the commercial side of the Taft family. Perhaps others have photos of shops and people that we could use.

Dr. John Marsh:

"Physician, Indian Agent, Friend of the Sioux, Explorer, Rancher, Father of Early California Immigration, Pioneer."

Although we focus on the Taft side of Garry Grover's line, there is the fascinating story of his 6th cousin four times removed, Dr. John Marsh. Dr. John Marsh was the son of John (John, Ezekiel, Zachary, John and Susannah (Skelton) Marsh. Esther Marsh was the daughter of John (Samuel, Philip, John and Susannah (Skelton) Marsh. She married Jacob Taft (1725-1802), the gr-gr-grandfather of Elizabeth Clark Taft.

Dr. John Marsh graduated from Harvard (1823) and traveled through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico and California. "Wherever John Marsh went there was romance and adventure." He was a strong supporter of the Sioux shortly before the Black Hawk War, and rescued the wife and child of a Sioux chief. With the help of his common law wife, Marguerite, (the daughter of a French trapper and his Wahpeton wife), he compiled the first dictionary of the Sioux language. His letter campaign extolling the agricultural potential of California, he was instrumental in bringing in prairie schooners west. Although he practiced medicine, he never finished his studies due to the death of his mentor. In addition he developed Los Meganos into one of the largest ranches in the area.

Dr. John Marsh was murdered by three bandits on the road to Martinez on his way to San Francisco for business in the fall of 1856. Eventually two were captured and brought to trial.

Information from George D. Lyman (1930).

The Marshes and Tafts intertwined again

Garry Grover of Livermore, CA has written us recently with his family connections and a fulsome writeup of not only his Taft side but also the Marsh side (see inset on this page about one of the most interesting ancestors in the Marsh line).

As chance would have it, in 1995 "we purchased a house in Brentwood, CA and we later found out that it was built on a very small portion of a 50,000 acre ranch originally owned by Dr. John Marsh, who was also a descendant of John Marsh, born 1611 in England, and was my 6th cousin, 4 times removed. Dr. Marsh was very instrumental in getting California to join the union. He was the first American to settle in this part of the state."

Elizabeth Clark Taft, Garrys' maternal gr-grandmother, was born 7 Jun 1834 Pittsford, VT and died 5 Feb 1916 in Northfield, MN the daughter of Timothy Clark and Mary A. (Hitchcock) Taft. She married 2 Apr 1851 in Pittsford, VT Franklin Hall (1829- 1908) the son of Harvey and Susan (Cowee) Hall.

Timothy Clark "Clark" Taft (1800-1872) was the son of Timothy (1782) and Mary "Polly" (Reidel) Taft. Timothy Taft (1782-1818) was the son of Timothy (Jacob and Esther (Marsh), Israel, Robert) Taft and Priscilla (Moses, Joseph, Robert) Taft. Timothy was also the brother of Abigail Taft who married, as his first wife, Bezaleel Taft, Esq (see pg 2).

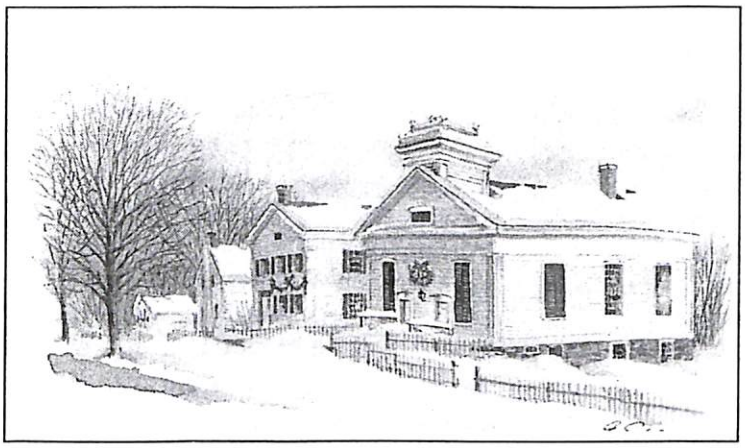
Jacob Taft (1725-1802) was the son of Israel and Mercy (Aldrich) Taft and married 13 Feb 1745/1746 in Bellingham, MA (VR 1.316) Esther Marsh (1726-1802) daughter of John and Abigail (Eastman) Marsh.

If You Go....

Currently the John Marsh Historic Trust Inc of Concord, CA is working to restore the stone house and new state park at Los Meganos rancho, at a cost of $5,000,000. The site has over 3640 acres and includes recently discovered prehistoric remains dating back more than 8,000 years.

On 24 Sep 2006 a ceremony was held at the John Marsh Memorial in Pacheco marking the 150th anniversary of Dr. John Marsh's murder, the site includes an historical marker.

John Marsh can be found in George D. Lyman's definitive biography, "John Marsh, Pioneer: the Life Story of a Trail-Blazer on Six Frontiers" NY 1930, Scribner's & Sons. In addition there is a fascinating video at www.johnmarshhouse.com on YouTube by Mr. Lyman.



Another Jacob and Esther (Marsh) connection

Gayle and her daughter Lisa Gallant are descended from Timothy Taft and Hepsibeth Rollins who settled in Ironville, NY after removing from Pittsford, VT. The painting on the front of their card shows the church where the Tafts attended services. Timothy was a member of the building committee and served as deacon. He is buried 'up the hill" near the church next to his wife and many children.

Timothy (1796-) was the son of Josiah (Timothy, Jacob & Esther Marsh, Israel, Robert) Taft. See p 7 for more descendants of Jacob and Esther (Marsh) Taft.

The Ironville card is from the "Adirondack Winter" series, original watercolor by Elayne Sears. Sales of the cards benefit High Peaks Hospice of Mineville, NY 12956.

شهرستان تفت

Spotlight on Taft .... Iran

There are many places named Taft, but we doubt any are more surprising to us than this city. Taft, Iran has been mentioned in history since the 9th century A.H, as well as in Erfan books because of "the great Aref, Shah Nemat Allh Wali who lived there" (www.ibchamber.org/Magazine). With an ancient history like that it's unlikely we'll find a family connection.

The city or district of Taft, Yazd province, is 18 km southwest of Yazd proper in the central part of the country and includes the highest peak, Shirkooh (4,055 m high and snow-covered year-round). The weather is moderate and the city contains summer residences of many people. Taft is an important center for the production of pomegranates and for breeding silkworms. It boasts springs, caves, the Caravansaray Ali Abad, old castles, lush gardens as well as the Ghadamgah-e-Islamiye, the mausoleum of Sheykh Joneyd, and the mosques of Msajd Qadimi, Sheykh Ali Baliman and Shah Vali. The Press TV lists Taft as having 500 historical sites including 56 national sites. Muslims are the majority with Zoroastrians and Jews in the minority, although one sixth of all Zoroastrians in Iran live in Taft and its vicinity.

According to Iran Daily – Panorama (10/04/06) Taft is a top ecotourism destination. There is an Anthropology Museum which opened this May in the Garmseer district. Its building, the Razaqiyan house, covering 750 sq meters, is from the Pahlavi era and is a national site. It is resplendent with vestibules, hall, pavilions, fountain houses and wind catchers (towers called "badgir"). Michael Wood, who created the recent documentary production on Alexander the Great, when asked about his best memories, mentioned "the blue mountains by Taft in Iran with the Zoroastrians we tasted the Haoma and witnessed the 'mysteries of the dog'.

Cyrus Travel reports that Taft includes a significant mass graveyard, Cham, for Zoroastrians. According to the Head of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Dept "the mass graveyard, in which Zoroastrians laid the bodies of their lost ones in old days, was endowed to the cause. Therefore it was taken by Zoroaster's disciples as a sacred site. In their culture bodies were laid at the site in order to be eaten by vultures. The bones were then carefully placed in a well situated in the middle of the mass graveyard. Afterwards the site would be cleansed."

The noted astronaut Anousheh Ansari was in the US Peace Corps as a teacher in Taft, Iran from 1972-1974 (Ansari space blog).

In Memoriam

Norman F. Taft

Mr. Norman Frederick Taft, 74, was born in Barron, WI the son of Clarence and Esther Taft in 1932. Mr. Taft died Monday, July 3, 2006 at Skaggs Community Health Center in Branson, MO.

He was a major in the US Marine Corps, retiring in 1979 after 29 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Esther Taft; and brothers, Gordon and Howard Taft. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, of the home; sons, Norman Taft, Jr (wife Rhonda) of Blue Eye, MO, Dennis Hennings (wife Jennifer) of Blue Eye, MO; daughters Deborah Webb (husband Mike) of Norwalk, CA, Diana Stinson of Wildomar, CA, Sharon Garlitz of Brookville, OH and Denise Roady of Auburn, WA; brothers, Al (wife Nancy) of Kewaskum, WI, Jerry (wife Nancy) of Quinton, VA; sisters, Marge Hoff (husband Dave) of Barron, WI, Carol Ostenson of Barron, WI, and Helen Hamilton of Eagle, WI. There are 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Interment was be held at 11 am Friday, Aug 4, with a military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery at Point Loma in San Diego.

Norman Frederick Taft was the son of Clarence Marshall (Amos Marshall, Henry Peter, George Wheaton, Peter, Henry, Peter, Joseph, Robert) and Esther (Frederickson) Taft.

Wife Barbara reports that he died suddenly and did not suffer needlessly. She says they were married 28 years and he was such a blessing. Our condolences and prayers go out to Barbara and their family.

A Gift Membership from one cousin to another aids our research too

Jefferson Eaton has not only given a gift membership to his first cousin, Mrs. Philip Brooks, but he also sent us a family chart showing their descent from Bezaleel Taft, Jr (1780-1846), the son of Bezaleel Taft, Esq. and his second wife, Sarah Richardson. This chart is in the handwriting of the late Richard Jefferson Eaton and was created in 1966.

Bezaleel Taft, Jr. married first 27 Aug 1807 in Newburyport, MA (VR 2.464) Margaret Stoddard Spring (1783-1816), daughter of Rev Samuel and Hannah Spring. He married second 22 Dec 1817 in Northbridge, MA (VR 1.158) Hannah Spring (1797-1877) daughter of Adolphus and Lydia (Taft) Spring. Bezaleel Taft, Jr. and Hannah had five children, including their son Henry Gordon Taft.

Henry Gordon Taft married 1 Jan 1856 in Worcester (VRMA 101.26) Ariadne L. Jefferson and their daughter Florence Spring Taft married William Lorenzo Eaton. William and Florence (Taft) Eaton's children included Henry Taft Eaton (the father of Eleanor) and Richard Jefferson (the father of Jefferson Taft Eaton).

It's quite amazing how serendipitous our correspondence can be. For more on Bezaleel Taft, Esq. see page 2.

A great research tool on line

Richard Lundgren has been filling us in on the descendants of Henry Peter Taft (1844-1911), his gr-gr-grandfather, who was also the gr-grandfather of Norman Frederick Taft (see this page). One of Richard's many activities involves adding data to a wonderful website called findagrave.com. It's a site that is easy to access and probably contribute to and one that certainly adds to our research capabilities. Not only is inscription data listed, but in many instances, photos of the stones and additional information, whether personal anecdotes or obituary notices, has been incorporated.

We will be having more on the Henry Peter Taft family in future TTTs, thanks to Richard's help. He is a wonderful researcher, providing documentation of his sources. We also send him our best wishes as he deals with his wife's illness.

Taft Family Association Officers

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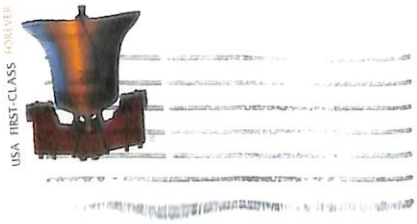
Website Editor: David Taft, Arlington, TX http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~taft/
Executive Committee: Robert Curtis, Bert Smith, Justin Taft, Charles F. Davis Jr..

Annual dues of $8 per family are due and payable each year on or before June 1, 2006.

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